REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Yanchuk during the January 27, 2010 telephone conference. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the telephone conference is provided in the following remarks.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I.   Rejections Under 25 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055046 to Ono et al. ("Ono"); and rejects claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0025476 to Takeuchi ("Takeuchi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As discussed during the January 27 telephone conference, Examiner Yanchuk indicated that the rejections of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102 was improperly made, and would be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Examiner Yanchuk agreed to issue a new non-Final Office Action if other rejections of the claims are appropriate. Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration in this matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:SQL

Date: January 27, 2010

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